

ADDITIONAL FEES:

Submitted herewith is a check in the amount of \$200.00 to cover the additional fee for four (4) extra claims in excess of twenty total. Should the check prove insufficient for any reason or should an additional fee be due, authorization is hereby given to charge any such deficiency or additional fee to our Deposit Account No. 01-0268.

REMARKS

The present application is a Rule 114 Request for Continued Examination (RCE) of application Serial No. 10/047,973, filed January 15, 2002.

In an amendment after final filed October 16, 2006, applicant requested reconsideration of their application without further amendments to the claims. In an Advisory Action dated October 31, 2006, the Examiner advised that the request for reconsideration does not overcome the prior art rejections of the claims set forth in the final Office Action.

By the present RCE, independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the item displaying area of the display means displays a list of items corresponding to analysis conditions and configured to be arranged in the image displaying area. Claim 2 has been amended to clarify that the means for performing group editing performs character position alignment of the first characters or digits of the items in the same group. New claims 20-26 have been added to provide a fuller scope of coverage.

Applicant respectfully submits that the prior art of record does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1-8, 11-19 and newly added claims 20-26. Applicant therefore requests reconsideration of their application as set forth below.

Claims 1-8 and 11-19

Applicant's arguments for claims 1-8 and 11-19 presented in the October 16 amendment after final are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

Additionally, on page 2 of the October 31 Advisory Action, the Examiner contends that the only difference between the claimed invention and the cited references relate to the contents of the report (i.e., data relating to analysis results of an analyzer), which the Examiner has characterized as "non-functional descriptive material". In this regard, the Examiner contends that one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious at the time of the invention to display any data, including data of analysis results, because such data does not alter how the interface functions. The Examiner further contends that Carroll teaches a display with two display areas, one of the display areas being shown in Fig. 2 and the other display area being the display area from which the item was dragged. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's contentions.

First, applicant disagrees with the Examiner's contention that the only difference between the claimed invention and the disclosure in the cited references is with regard to the contents of the report being displayed and processed by the computer user interface. As set forth in

detail in the October 16 amendment after final, the differences between the claimed invention and the prior art deal with the specific structure and corresponding function of the display means and drag-and-drop means recited in the claims.

For example, independent claim 1 requires a computer user interface for creating a printing template for analysis results of an analyzer. The computer interface disclosed by Carroll does not deal at all with the creation of a "printing template". While teaching a system for permitting sorting and manipulation of data displayed within multiple columns in a window within a data processing system, Carroll does not teach, nor relate at all to, any means for generating a printing template. Furthermore, the data displayed in the window within the data processing system of Carroll does not relate at all to analysis results of an analyzer and analysis conditions of the analyzer, as recited in the claims.

Second, contrary to the Examiner's contention, Carroll does not disclose or suggest a computer user interface comprising display means having two displaying areas: an image displaying area for displaying a report of analysis results of the analyzer, and an item displaying area for displaying printing items corresponding to analysis conditions in a list, as recited in independent claims 1 and 13. By contrast,

Carroll's display monitor only displays one display area or window where a data list is displayed.

Applicant also disagrees with the Examiner's contention that the contents of the report and type of printing items recited in the claims are merely "non-functional descriptive material" which should not be given patentable weight. This position of the Examiner is contrary to well-established caselaw which has held that the Examiner cannot disregard this type of functional language in evaluating the patentability of the subject matter defined in the claims. See, for example, Ex parte Bylund, 217 USPQ 492, 498 (BPAI 1981) ("... functional language in the claims must be given full weight and may not be disregarded in evaluating the patentability of the subject matter defined employing such functional language.). Likewise, by characterizing the specifically recited report of analysis results and the list of items corresponding to analysis conditions of the analyzer as "non-functional descriptive material", the Examiner has effectively disregarded the specific function of the drag-and-drop means recited in the claims.

In view of the foregoing, and in light of the arguments presented in the October 16 amendment after final, applicant respectfully submits that the prior art rejections of claims 1-8 and 11-19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

New Claims 20-26

New independent claim 24 is directed to a user interface for creating a printing template. Claim 24 requires display means for simultaneously displaying a printing image of a report and a list of items configured to be arranged in the printing image of the report, drag-and-drop means for enabling a user to drag-and-drop an item from the item list to a desired position within the printing image so that the selected item is displayed in the report, means for attaching the dropped item to the end of an existing item and recognizing both items as information belonging to the same group when the existing item is at the same position as the dropped item, and group editing means for performing group editing of items in the same group. No corresponding structural and functional combination is disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record.

For example, Carroll does not disclose or suggest a user interface having display means for simultaneously displaying a printing image of a report and a list of items configured to be arranged in the printing image of the report. In Carroll, the display monitor does not display a printing image of a report (i.e., an image of a report in the form in which it will be printed). Furthermore, the display monitor in Carroll has only one display area or window where a data

list is displayed. In contrast, claim 24 requires display means for simultaneously displaying a printing image of a report and a list of items configured to be arranged in the printing image of the report. Carroll also does not disclose or suggest the drag-and-drop means and corresponding function recited in claim 24, as set forth above for independent claims 1 and 13.

Claims 20-21, 22-23 and 25-26 depend on and contain all of the limitations of independent claims 1, 13 and 24, respectively, and, therefore, distinguish from the prior art of record at least in the same manner as claims 1, 13 and 24.

Moreover, there are separate grounds for patentability of new dependent claims 20-23.

Claims 20 includes the additional limitation that the image displaying area of the display means comprises a printing image displaying area for displaying a printing image of the analysis results of the analyzer. Likewise, claim 22 includes the additional limitation that the image displaying area of the display means comprises a printing image displaying area for displaying a printing image of the sample characteristics. No corresponding features are disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record. For example, in Carroll, the display monitor does not have a printing image displaying area (i.e., an image displaying area that displays an image in the form in which it will be printed).

Claims 21 and 23 include the additional limitation that the item displaying area and the image displaying area of the display means are disposed adjacent one another. Again, no corresponding feature is disclosed or suggested by the prior art of record.

In view of the foregoing, the application is believed to be in allowable form. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims are most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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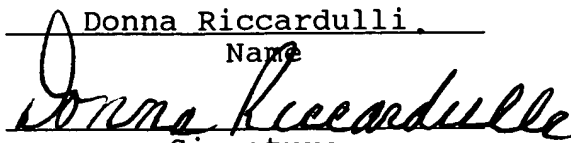
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NOVEMBER 15, 2006

Date